

REMARKS

Claims 43, 48, 49, and 51–65 are pending in the application and claims 56-65 have been canceled. Applicants wish to thank Examiner Shukla for his helpful comments during the telephonic interviews of July 31, 2003 and August 22, 2003 and gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 43, 48, 49 and 51-55 are in condition for allowance. In an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled all claims having outstanding rejections and believe that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Amendment of claims should in no way be construed as an acquiescence to any of the Examiner's rejections. The amendments to the claims are being made solely to expedite prosecution of the present application and do not, and are not intended to, narrow the claims in any way. Applicants reserve the option to further prosecute the same or similar claims in the instant or in a subsequent patent application.

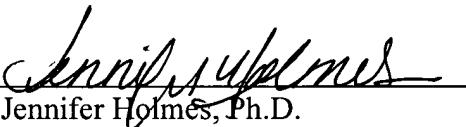
Rejection of Claims 56-64 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 56-64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Fishman et al., U.S Patent No. 6,190,861, for reasons of record set forth in the Office Actions dated March 28, 2002 and December 2, 2002. In an effort to expedite prosecution of this application, claims 56-64 have been canceled by virtue of this amendment. In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants consider the Response herein to be fully responsive to the referenced Office Action. Based on the above Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance is requested. If a telephone conversation with Applicant's Agent would expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at (617) 832-1000.

Respectfully submitted,

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